

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 07180 221146Z

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5316

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7180

EXDIS

FOR UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID EG US

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPT

1. YOU WILL RECALL THAT DURING YOUR LAST MEETING WITH SADAT, HE AND FAHMY ASKED WHEN SOME ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT BE MADE OF THE PROPOSED EMERGENCY RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT. YOU EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO DO SO IN JULY. SINCE THEN THERE HAS BEEN A RASH OF PRESS STORIES ON THE SUBJECT, SOME OF THEM GLARINGLY INCORRECT, OTHERS LESS SO. WITH JULY NOW IN ITS FINAL THIRD, I THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO GIVE THE EGYPTIANS A DEFINITIVE STATUS REPORT ON WHERE WE STAND. I HAVE NOTED VARIOUS RECENT MESSAGES INDICATING THAT THE EGYPTIANS AND THE JAPANESE STILL HAVE SOME WAY TO GO BEFORE THEY ARE READY TO FORMALIZE THEIR PARTICIPATION.

2. FORTUNATELY, THE PRESIDENT AND FAHMY HAVE BEEN PREOCCUPIED THESE PAST TWO WEEKS WITH OTHER MATTERS AND ABU ISMAIL HAS BEEN AWAY IN LONDON AND NOW IN MOSCOW. HE SHOULD BE BACK IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS, BUT IS EXPECTED TO PROCEED TO SAUDI ARABIA ON JULY 26 TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF THE SAUDI LOAN. SOMETIME CLOSE TO THE END OF THE MONTH, HOWEVER, HE WILL BE BACK AND OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS WILL BE ANXIOUS TO HAVE WORD ON HOW THINGS ARE PROGRESSING.

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3. I THINK IT WOULD BE WISE TO GIVE THE EGYPTIANS
A STATUS REPORT ASAP. THIS SHOULD BE CANDID AND
INCLUDE AN ACCOUNT OF SUCH DIFFICULTIES AS HAVE ARISEN
AND HOW WE ARE TRYING TO RESOLVE THEM.

4. REGRET I WAS NOT ABLE TO TALK WITH YOU AT
GREATER LENGTH DURING MY RECENT BRIEF CONSULTATIONS
IN WASHINGTON.
EILTS

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